



► WELCOME TO THE
INAUGURAL ISSUE OF THE
ARIZONA MIGRANT EDUCATION
CONNECTION 1

○ ISSUE 1 | ○ VOLUME 1 | ○ MARCH 2015



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STATE MIGRANT PROGRAM
STAFF 2



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TO IMPACT TEACHING AND
LEARNING IN K-12 CLASSROOMS SO
THAT MIGRANT STUDENTS ACHIEVE
HIGH ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

Arizona *Migrant Education Connection*

Introducing the new Migrant Education Program newsletter!

With much pleasure, I would like to introduce our new newsletter: the Arizona Migrant Education Connection. This newsletter will be published quarterly in English and Spanish and will be sent out to each of the Migrant Education Program districts and charter schools.

In future issues, there will be interviews with key players in the education of migrant students, reminders, updates, dates to remember, and even a Migrant Student Spotlight.

We hope that you find this information helpful and informative. Please reach out to Christopher Dickinson, the Migrant Education Program Specialist responsible

for communication and outreach, at (602) 542-9411 or Christopher.Dickinson@azed.gov if you have any questions or requests in an upcoming issue of the Arizona Migrant Education Connection.

Sincerely,

Mary Frances Haluska
Interim State Migrant Director
Arizona Department of Education



Reminder

You can always contact the Arizona State Migrant Program Office at (602) 542-7462. We are here to serve you, whether you are a parent, student, or district/school/charter personnel.

Meet your Arizona State Migrant Education Program Staff!



Leah Landrum Taylor— Leah Landrum Taylor is currently a new addition on the State Superintendent's Executive Team serving as the Special Projects Director for the Arizona Department of Education. Leah served as an elected Official for the Arizona State Senate and House of Representatives in District 27 and termed out after 16 years in January, 2015. During her time at the Legislature she served on the Education Committee.



Nita Gentry— Nita has worked at the Arizona Department of Education for three weeks, prior to working here she was the Administrative Assistant to then Senator Leah Landrum Taylor at the Arizona State Legislature. Nita began working at the Arizona State Legislature as an Administrative Assistant in November, 2007. Her background varies from Accounting to Event Planning & Coordinating. Outside of work, Nita has a passion for design, spending time with family (extended) as well and working in the community.



Mary Haluska— Mary has been with the Arizona Migrant Education Program since October 2007. She has been the State ID&R Coordinator for the past five years. Prior to joining the MEP, Mary spent 14 years as an elementary school teacher and 13 years as a school administrator in multi-cultural and rural communities. Mary enjoys traveling and volunteering at the Heard Museum and as a member of the Diocese of Phoenix Diocesan School Board. She is also known by many in the MEP as Maria Jalisco



Christopher Dickinson— Christopher has worked in the Arizona Migrant Program since April of 2013. He began his work at the Arizona Department of Education in 2004 before transferring to the Governor's Office in 2009. Due to his passion for education and under-served populations, Christopher found his new home in the MEP. His education background is in visual communications, early childhood education, and emergency medicine. Outside of work, Christopher loves photography, travel, and spending time with friends.



Dave Anderson— Dave has worked in the public school system for almost 20 years. Originally starting his career in Oklahoma City and moving to the Phoenix area 10 years ago to teach Math in Mesa Public Schools. He has a Master's Degree in school administration with a B.S. degree in Speech. He loves to travel and spend time outdoors.



Doreen Candelaria— Doreen joined the team in December, 2014 and is the new Migrant/Title I Specialist with the Migrant and Title I programs. She is an experienced teacher that taught for 17 years in the Mesa Public School District. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education at ASU, and a Master of Education at NAU. Her passion is in education working with schools and underrepresented communities. Outside of work, Doreen loves traveling, running, and spending time outside in the great Arizona weather.

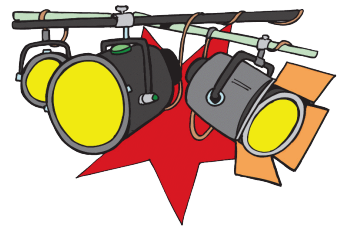


Paulino Valerio— Paulino began working in public service at the Appropriations Committee for the Arizona Senate and later moved to the Department of Education. He is passionate about Policy affecting under-served communities and is excited to work for the MEP unit. In his free time he enjoys volunteering, music and volleyball.

Meet your Arizona State Migrant Education Program Staff!



Program Spotlight



Conexiones has been developing and delivering educational programs for the migrant students of Arizona since 1992. Our engaging, computer-mediated courses are designed to strengthen students' language, reading & writing skills, and are aligned to AZCCRS standards.

District teachers are trained in the Conexiones curricula and online platforms via a hybrid face-to-face/virtual environment by Conexiones staff, and receive coaching the first time they teach a course. Conexiones administers the online courses and performs data analysis. This model gives districts the flexibility to offer Conexiones in a variety of formats, such as an afterschool program, weekend program, summer program, or during intersession.

We currently have 3 programs, differentiated by grade level. In *Our America*, high school students explore America through research and analysis. Students identify social problems faced by American society and find possible solutions to these problems. They practice civic engagement through writing letters to a government official and creating a public service announcement (PSA).

Our latest offerings, launched in 2015, integrate scientific literacy skills as a foundation for future success and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). *Virtual Vacation Arizona*, for migrant students in the 4th and 5th grades, is comprised of two courses in which students virtually visit one of the regions of the state of Arizona, and take on the role of a junior ranger to learn about weather, flora/fauna and geography. The program for migrant students in the 6th through 8th grades, *Virtual Vacation Global*, has three courses. Students explore other countries and civilizations through the eyes of a tourist, a scientist and an archaeologist.

For more information, contact:
Seline Szkupinski Quiroga, Conexiones Program Director
(480) 965-5091 Email: selinesq@asu.edu

Migrant Family Spotlight

Sacrifice and Dedication

Gabriela Quinteros is a dedicated wife, proud mother, and a loving grandmother. The moment I spoke to her, I knew she had a story of perseverance that should be shared. Mrs. Quintero's life experience as a migrant family has shaped her into the amazing woman she is today.

She begins her story by telling me about Pablo Quinteros Senior, her husband who proudly worked in the lettuce and melon fields for 27 years. He came to the United States illegally, alone during the Guerrilla War in El Salvador at the age of 16, no mother, his father died when he was just seven years old. The work was difficult, he would pick the cantaloupes the old way, with a big bag, because back then there were no machines to do the picking for them. He also worked various jobs in the lettuce field, cutting, and packing, eventually becoming a foreman. The work is very hard and takes a toll on one's body, but the solitude that these partners experience is even harder.

Mr. and Mrs. Quinteros have three brilliant children, Pablo the eldest is 22, Clarisa 20, and Gabrielle 18. Mr. Quinteros had to make sacrifices to provide for his family and time apart was one of them. "Pablo was always working, I was like a single mother, the only time my children saw their father was three months in the summer, they would reunite in Salinas, California." Mrs. Quinteros sent her children to California so they could see their father and spend time with him, although it was only during the summer months, her children loved the time they spent with him.

THEIR STRONG FAMILY
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To provide for his family he had to follow the lettuce work, in California, New Mexico, and Colorado but the distance did not drive this family apart. Her children learned what sacrifice, dedication, and unconditional love is from their father. Their strong family values, and dedicated work ethic, kept this family together.

Some of her proudest moments as a Migrant family was when her children, Pablo Jr. and Clarisa graduated from high school. She truly appreciates all the support from the Migrant Program. All three of her children have attended "Close-Up" a visit to

our Nation's Capital to give students an inside look at their democracy in action sponsored by the Arizona Migrant Education Program. Clarisa also attended "Space Camp", an Alabama summer program sponsored by Arizona Migrant Education that continues to challenge young people to dream of a future in space. Both Pablo Jr. and Clarisa are actively pursuing their bachelor degrees and her youngest Gabrielle, will be graduating from PPEP TEC High School, and attending college this fall. Mrs. Quinteros is a leader and has played a very strong role in her children's education. She is the President of our State Migrant Advisory Council and makes a difference in the lives of many children because of her participation. The Quinteros family shares a strong family bond, and through their Migrant life experiences they have a story of success that should be shared and celebrated.

Written by:
Doreen Candelaria, ADE
Migrant/Title I Specialist

